

for Independence had begun. Nine years of hardship—of privation—of suffering—of danger and death had ended, and they had ended in success—ended here, on this hallowed ground, in this very building.

178 years have passed since that day in January, 1784, and this State House is still the Capitol of our State.

I am proud to proclaim January 14th as Ratification Day, with the hope that today, and on future Ratification Days, our people may reflect upon this and other memorable occasions in our glorious history.

You may have noticed that the staff atop the State House dome is bare this morning. This is because today, we Marylanders will fly the Thirteen Star Flag from that staff, to mark the anniversary of this great event in our nation's history. It is unusual for any banner except Maryland's own State Flag to fly over our State House. Many persons here in Annapolis have never seen any but the Maryland Flag flying from that place of honor. The law of our State provides that the Maryland Flag shall be displayed from the staff atop the State House on all legal holidays and upon such other occasions as the Governor may decree. Today, it is my privilege to raise a Thirteen Star Flag of the United States to that pinnacle of honor. Around us are 12 other Thirteen Star Flags. When the Flag which I shall now raise to the top of the dome is in place, all 13 of the colonies which founded this nation will have been honored in this ceremony.

ADDRESS, THE VALLEY FORGE MEMORIAL CHAPEL VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

February 18, 1962

I am highly honored to represent the State of Maryland here today as we gather at this shrine of liberty to pay homage to the father of our country.

George Washington, of course, belongs to all Americans, and we in Maryland are not so provincial as to think that we are attached to him in any way not enjoyed by other Americans. But in a sense we do feel a singular attachment to him, for history and geography—time and place—have concurred to keep the memory of our first Commander-in-Chief, our first President, alive in the hearts of the people of Maryland.